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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,376	09/25/2003	William Vroman	PL020001	2375

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EXAMINER

AGWUMEZIE, CHARLES C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,376

Applicant(s)

VROMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Charlie C. Agwumezie

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 pages.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-29, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Coley et al U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0011253.

1. As per **claim 1 and 19**, Coley et al discloses a feature rights management system, comprising:

a feature rights server having a repository for storing feature keys, the feature keys representing activation rights for features (0018, 0094);

a feature rights management agent operatively coupled to the feature rights server to receive feature keys from the feature rights server, to store feature rights in a repository, and to identify available feature units provided (see fig. 1, 3, 4 and 5; 0018, 0019, 0021); and

a sub-agent operatively coupled to the feature rights management agent to request feature rights from the feature rights management agent, wherein the feature rights management agent allocates the feature units among requesting sub-agents (see fig. 1, 3 and 5; 0018, 0019, 0021).

2. As per **claim 2 and 20**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein the feature rights management agents and the feature rights server transfer rights between the feature rights management agents and the server in the form of keys; and wherein the sub-agents and the feature rights management agent transfer rights between the sub-agents and the feature rights management agent in the form of permission (0072, 0073, 0089).

3. As per **claim 3 and 21**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein a connection between the feature rights management agents and the feature rights server is un-trusted (0060); and wherein a connection between the sub-agents and the feature rights management agent is trusted (0106).

4. As per **claim 4 and 22**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein the sub-agent requests permissions for feature rights from the feature rights management agent upon provisioning (0072, 0073, 0076).

5. As per **claim 5 and 23**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein the feature rights management agent comprises a memory for storing a number of unallocated feature units (0018); and wherein the feature rights management agent requests keys for features from the feature rights server when the number of unallocated feature units is deficient to meet the needs of a request for permissions by a sub-agent (0078, 0079).

6. As per **claim 6 and 24**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein the sub-agent releases a feature unit by sending a release message to the feature rights management agent; and wherein the feature rights management agent increases its number of available feature units in response to the release message (0079, 0080).

7. As per **claim 7 and 25**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein the feature management agent releases feature keys from a feature rights management agent and moves feature rights keys to the feature rights server (0020, 0080).

8. As per **claim 8 and 26**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein each feature key comprises a plurality of feature rights including a) feature units, b) a feature category, and c) a distribution node identifier (0018, 0047).

9. As per **claim 9 and 27**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein each feature unit designates how many instances of a feature category is permitted within a domain of a distribution node identified by the distribution node identifier (0011, 0013).

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10. As per **claim 10**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management system, wherein the feature keys are of at least two kinds of keys: network keys destined to the feature rights server and element keys destined for the feature rights management agent (0013, 0068).

11. As per **claim 11**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing feature keys in a feature rights server, the feature keys representing activation rights for features (0018, 0094);

(b) receiving feature keys in a feature rights management agent from the feature rights server (0020, 0080);

(c) storing the received feature keys in the agent to identify available feature (0018, 0094); and

(d) requesting in a sub-agent feature rights from the feature rights management agent (see fig. 1, 3 and 5; 0018, 0019, 0021).

12. As per **claim 12**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights, further comprising the step of (e) receiving in the sub-agent feature rights from the feature rights management agent in the form of permissions (0072, 0073, 0089).

13. As per **claim 13**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing

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feature rights, wherein said step (b) of receiving is over a un-trusted environment (0060); and wherein said step (e) of receiving permissions is over a trusted environment (0106).

14. As per **claim 14**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights according to claim 12, wherein said step (d) of requesting requests permissions from the feature rights management agent for feature rights upon provisioning (0072, 0073, 0076).

15. As per **claim 15**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights, further comprising the steps of: (f) releasing a feature unit from the sub-agent by sending a release message to the feature rights management agent; and (g) increasing a number of available feature units in the feature rights management agent in response said step (f) (0018, 0078, 0079).

16. As per **claim 16**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights, further comprising the step of (f) moving feature rights keys from the feature management agent to the feature rights server to release feature keys from a feature rights management agent (0020, 0080).

17. As per **claim 17**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights, wherein each feature key comprises a plurality of feature rights including

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a) feature units, b) a feature category, and c) a distribution node identifier (0018, 0047).

18. As per **claim 18**, Coley et al further discloses a method of managing feature rights, wherein each feature unit designates how many instances of a feature category is permitted within a domain of a distribution node identified by the distribution node identifier (0011, 0013, 0062, 0068, 0082).

19. As per **claim 28**, Coley et al further discloses a feature rights management apparatus, wherein the feature keys are of at least two kinds of keys: network keys destined to the feature rights server and element keys destined for the feature rights management agent (0013, 0068); wherein, the distribution node identifier of an element key identifies a domain of an identified feature rights management agent, and wherein the distribution node identifier of a network key identifies a domain of an identified feature management server (0013, 0018, 0047, 0068).

20. As per **claim 29**, Coley et al discloses a feature rights management apparatus, further comprising a chassis housing the feature rights management agent and the sub-agents as cards (fig. 4).

Conclusion

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Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is (571) 272-6838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272 – 6712. The fax phone number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7687. [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]. (703) 308-1396 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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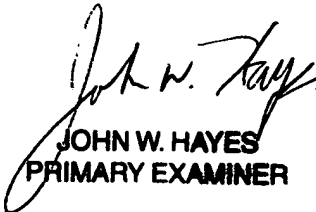
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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

acc

May 16, 2005



JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER